



COMMANDER WALTER M. SCHIRRA, JR.

1923

An astronaut and third American to orbit the earth, Schirra circled the globe six times in the Sigma 7 space capsule on October 3, 1962. He landed in the Pacific Ocean within four miles of the waiting U.S.S. Kearsarge. He radioed for a formal Navy request for permission to come aboard. His day's pay was \$35.31 including \$7.42 for hazardous duty. Schirra received the National Aeronautics and Space Agency's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award. He spent his boyhood in Oradell, New Jersey where an historic site marker has been erected in his honor.